## THE MYSTERY OF GRASLOV

oower."

nillists."

quietly.

e no more nesting."

"You have discovered something?"

"Good! Give me an idea where this

place is, your excellency. There will

cond leading out of Perm to the south?"

The simple minded son of old Michael?

"He is their leader," Neslerov said

conversation between the son and the

old man. It seems there is to be a

"A meeting of nihilists in the shops

"Yes. Now, it has long been suspect-

ed that there were many nihilists at

Perm, but the police have not been able

to uncover them. Let me advise you.

Keep this to yourself-a secret between

you and me. We will go to the forge

and arrest these Paulpoffs. If we find

proof that they are nihilists, they will

go across the border and you will be

mentioned for promotion. Then the

opportunity will come to me to speak

to the minister of justice far you, and

undoubtedly you will be given to me as

Jansky nodded. It was not for him

"Then tomorrow. I will make still

further investigations in my own way,

and we shall be ready to act. We must

Jansky, not being asked to remain

suddenly from his repose the prince be-

came a man of quick action. He called

from his estate four men in whom he

knew he could place the most implicit

confidence. He spent some time at his

desk writing. To each of the four he

gave a letter, unscaled, unstamped, but

addressed to each and apparently hav-

ing been delivered by the hand of a pri-

"Go with me, do what I bid you, and

you will have gold rubles for a year's

Inspector Jansky, happy and yet agi-

"Good! Then success is possible!"

said Jansky, grasping the hand of his

"Possible! It is certain. Come with

"I made it my business to ride past

"I met there, just leaving, a man who

appearance. I spoke to him, and he

'Number Five' of some mysterious cir-

cle, calling upon the person bearing

that name to come to the shows at a

certain hour tonight. We shall be in

It had so chanced that a number of

accidents to borses had taken place

the inspector of police and Neslerov ar-

rived, four men were within the shop,

their horses standing outside, and all

were apparently in the greatest eager-

ness to have their horses shod. Papa

Paulpoff was visibly disturbed by this

sudden inflax of the horseshoeing busi-

ness, but the giant Vladimir, who nev-

er refused a request if he could help a

human being, was beginning to make

the shoes. The men did not apparently

know one another, and each growled

continually at the others for being

Neslerov, upon arriving at the shop

whispered to the inspector, and both

"Seize the old man and the son!" said

Neslerov. "I will search these fel-

Poor old Papa Paulpoff turned white

and sank in horror to the ground, sus-

pecting what was coming, but Vladi-

mir, in whose innocent mind there was

no suspicion, stood gaping at the new-

"It is the prince!" he exclaimed

Neslerov did not answer him. He

turned to the nearest of the four, wres-

tled with him a short time, while the

others showed evidences of terror, and

"See!" he cried, waving it in the all

and then showing it to the inspector.

"It is a message to 'Number Three!

We have here the five constituting the

"Let me read." said the inspector.

while Vladimir still looked on uncon-

scious of the tragedy that was being

played with himself as its center.

then pulled from his pocket a letter.

"What have these poor men done, your

leaped from their horses.

excellency?"

of the steed ridden by the prince.

tated at the result of th

was a possibility of success."

loped to the door.

noble benefactor.

time. Let us ride."

the chief of the Tomsk police."

to ask questions now.

"I am ready," he said.

both go to Perm from here."

What has he to do with nihilists?"

a palace and a large salary.

meeting in a few nights."

of Paulpoff?"

"A forge? A horseshoeing place?"

s kept by a man named Paulpoff.

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CHAPTER III. TLADISH SENT TO SIBERIA. TTACLED to the police of the government of Perm was an inspector named Ignatz Jansky. He was ambitious to rise and was of that mental and physical caliber that makes a man sitcessful when he bends all his energies, regardless of all scruples, to the attainment

of his goal. Inspector Jansky, having received a message from Prince Neslerov, hastened to obey, for he knew the power of Neslerov, and if there should chance to be promotion in his path at any time Neslerov, as a wealthy noble of Graslov, could further his possibilities.

Inspector Jansky entered the palace of the prince with a bumility that would have charmed the poor devils whom his eagerness had sent to Sibe-"Sit down," said the prince, and the

inspector sat down with a suddenness that proved his desire to please his sponsor. "I sent for you." You did, your excellency. I received there yesterday and overheard a bit of

your message and made all haste to "I trust it did not inconvenience you to a great extent," said the prince, who

was quite familiar with the peculiarities of the inspector's nature. "Not at all, your excellency-that is, not so much but what it gave me pleasure to obey. I am always busy, as you

know." "Yes, you are assiduous. Well, I have news for you. But first I should be pleased to receive from you an answer to a question. What do you wish for

the most?" Jansky hesitated. His servile mind saw far into the future, as a rule, but it could not fathom the meaning of his strange question. What did it matter to the prince what he wanted most unless the prince was disposed to

"I should like promotion, your excellency. Of course, I make no claim, You have befriended me. You have made me what I am. I have in my humble way endeavored to so acquit myself that you would not be displeased. I would not ask you for more. But, since you ask my dearest wish, it is promotion.

'It is a possibility," the prince re-

Having said this, he deliberately lighted a cigar, leaving the inspector on nettles, wondering if the possibility were to materialize into a fact.

"As I said before, it is a possibility," said Nesierov and relapsed into silence, vate messenger. "I suppose it is always a possibility to one so powerful as your excellency." said Jansky, who had a fine talent for pleasure," he said. flattery.

"At this particular moment it is more easily accomplished than at any other Perm on the following afternoon. It

"If your excellency will explain-if anything is expected of me, I would" hours for Prince Neslerov. "Duty, only duty," broke in the prince. "But I will explain. You are already be said. "He would have come if there aware that when you were made inspector of police in Perm the field of police activity extended but little farther east. The Cossack guards and the Tartar cavalry composed the police over the border. But this new railway is revolutionizing all that. In each me." government through which this line of travel passes or is to pass a department of police is to be established. There will be new cities develop. There tion of Siberia will increase and, though complex enough at all times, will now before. The entrance of foreigners, of conspirators, will have to be made less difficult. The escape of a convict will now be almost a mere act of stepping

"It will be, therefore, quite necessary to establish a system of police with officers of more ability and shrewdness than the Cossacks who now command the rude guards who stand sentinels over the ezar's great dominion in Asia.

upon a train and saying farewell to his

'Such a department of police has already been established in Tobolsk, through which the rallway is now com pleted. It is time now for us to think of such a department in Tomsk."

As the prince and governor paused the inspector's breath came short and

"And, your excellency, in the good-

ness of your heart you have thought

"I have been thinking-of several. I have befriended you. I desire to do so again. But there are difficulties which we must consider. Your present position, while not a low one, still is so low that the leap from it to the position of superintendent of police of the government of Tomsk would excite the imaginations of certain people at St. Petersburg."

"Superintendent of police of Tomsk!"

Jansky cried. "Certainly. That is the position for which I intend you. I have watched your career. You are eager, ambitious and resourceful. What better man could I have in such a position? It is upon you whom I must rely to prevent the encroschments of our enemies. It will be the superintendent of my police who will be my closest confidant. Who could be more acceptable to me than

"I thank you, your excellency. thank"-

"Wait. Thank me with deeds when we succeed. As I said before, there are difficulties. One cannot leap too great a distance at once without a cause. We must find a cause.

'A cause, your excellency?" "What I mean is some potent reason

The letter simply commanded "Number Three" to attend a meeting of the for this great promotion. The chief of circle at the shops at that bour. the Tomsk police will have a palace, a The name of Vladimir Paulpoff was large income and will be second only signed. to myself in power. To obtain that "It is enough!" cried Jansky. Paulone must do something worthy." poff, I make you my prisoner in the name of the czar!" "Oh, if I could but win that distinc-

000000 even now he did not realize the enormity of the thing with which he was "Attend, Paulpoffs!" commanded Jan-

The young ironworker could, had he

exerted his strength, have thrust the

entire shameless crew from the place

and crashed their skulls together. But

some master?"

found a friend.

"Oh!" she cried.

ing under his arm.

ed it open.

and smile.

The hound, who remembered her,

placed his cold nose in her hand lov-

Frances stepped to the door and push-

"Mile. Gordon," he said, with a bow

"Where are the Paulpoffs?" she ask

"Why, you have not, then, been i

misfortune. What has happened?"

"Misfortune! I knew nothing of any

"Dead! All the Paulpoffs dead! Im-

"I spoke as we speak, mademoiselle.

Frances stood rigid and white,

"Vladingr has not been caught in any

"Siberia! Vladimir Paulpoff sent to

simple work people who had never, she

felt convinced, harbored an evil thought

against any man. To her they had at-

The face of Neslerov was inscrutable,

He held the picture loosely and care-

lessly, and the girl caught a glimpse of

"That is Vladimir's picture!" sh

"I am sending it to him," was the re-

ply of Neslerov. "It so happened that

Graslov and rode by here at the time

the inspector of police was making the

me at Moscow and tried to do what I

ing his guilt. But the inspector was

certain, and so all that was left to me

was to ask Vladimir what favor I

permit it to be passed along to him."

ist in him. But in Siberia he"-

ice abruntly.

"It is a beautiful face," said Frances,

"Vladimir has the soul of a great art-

She shuddered and ended her sen-

picture-he painted from memory. I

"My own face!" cried Frances in as-

young face the blacksmith artist had

"Yes, from memory and my descrip-

indelibly imprinted upon my memory

feature, with the utmost accuracy."

She looked at him in astonishment.

one round of pleasure should have her

face so impressed upon his mind seem-

"But you will befriend him," she said,

He bowed, and his eyes were hidden

"Believe me, I have already taken

steps to befriend them. In Tomsk there

is great need of such ironworkers now

that the railroad has gone beyond the

Obl, and I have sent my petition to the

minister of justice to have them sent

to Tomsk. They will not be treated as

"What was the crime?" asked Fran-

ces. She was very pale, but quite

"Why, it became known to Inspector

Jansky of the police that a certain num-

ber of men congregated here and seem-

ed to hold secret meetings. He investi-

"Letters from Vladimir found on

"You are an American," continued Ne-

man who appeared to you to be simple

to the surface even among the relatives

of our highest nobles. My own cousin

Frances sighed and turned

"And the proof?"

from further harm."

convicts, but as honorable workers."

without answering his remark. "You

ed to her incredible.

from her.

had occasion to visit my chateau near

cried. "What are you doing with it?"

crime," she said, with a sort of gasp.

of the governor of Tomsk.

honest! What crime?"

"And where is he now?

ob their way to Siberia."

praise of the czar.

the face.

"On the way to Siberia."

Frances swayed a little.

majesty the czar."

formed of their misfortune?

"They are dead."

healthy place."

You understand?"

sky, while the prince went through the pockets of the other three of the circle. "Oh, have mercy!" cried Papa Pauloff, falling upon his knees and clasping the legs of the prince. "We are innocent. I swear it! Some enemy has done this thing! The name is not in the writing of my son, I am certain! Oh, let me see the letters!"

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00

Neslerov made a movement as if to hand the letters to the old man when "I think it even now within your one of the wretches who had brought them there sprang forward, seized "Yes-a very nesting place for nithem and rushed unhindered from the

> "The letters! The proof is gone!" howled Jansky. "We have seen them. It is enough."

"Do you know a forge on the forest said Neslerov calmly. At this point Mamma Paulpoff came in. In consternation and helpless hor-"Well, that and all ironworking. It ror she saw her husband in the grasp of an inspector of police. "Paulpoff, the giant who breaks horse-"What is this?" she cried. shoes with his thumbs and forefingers?

"It is nothing, mother," said Vladi-"These men have found some letters, but I did not write them. Have We shall soon set ourselves

Jansky turned white, whether from The three Paulpoffs were thrust into surprise or horror at the devilish plot a dungeon. The prince and the inspecthe scented we do not know. But he or told their stories-clear, held, consat there waiting. The police of Tomsk vincing-to the governor of Perm. The needed a chief. The chief would have word of a prince and governor and of an inspector of police was not to be 'Yes," continued Neslerov, "this Pauldoubted. There was no trial, no hearpoff, as I accidentally discovered, is the ing-nothing but a report to the minis leader of a band of nihilists who meet ter of justice at St. Petersburg. there in the shops. I chanced to pass

In three days the Paulpoffs-old man, old woman and the unresisting giantwere on the way to Siberia on the railway which Gordon had helped to build.

CHAPTER IV.

THE MEETING AT THE FORGE. was characteristic of Frances Gordon that, no matter how great the stress of social or other duties, her mind never lost room for such favorite schemes as were closest to her heart.

It was by reason of this characteris de that, while her busy father was deep in the mysteries and intricacies of the Moscow conference, the subtleties of which increased as the time for senaration and departure drew nearer. Frances bethought her of a fitting opportunity to make good a promise she had made to Vladimir Paulpoff, the blacksmith.

During a conversation held several weeks before Vladimir had expressed a desire to study certain books which were apparently beyond his reach. Frances promised to obtain the books, longer, took his departure. And then and she did so. These made quite a respectable package, and a drosky was called to convey her to the railway sta-It was nothing new for Frances

> travel alone as far as from Moscow to Perm, but on this occasion her father, with some sort of premonition, begged her to send the books by messenger. "Oh, no," she said in her quiet manner of insistence. "We are about to return to the east, and I shall not see

> poor Vladimir for a long time." "Hang Vladimir" exclaimed Gordon as he saw his self willed young lady step into the drosky.

> Having alighted at Perm, she hired another drosky to take her and the precious books to the forge.

was growing late, and he had looked The driver was a huge, surly indi-"He was mistaken or he has failed." vidual, whose face was covered with a thick mass of beard and whose voice, when speaking to one not established As he spoke the prince's horse galas his superior, was heavy and inso-

> Responding to the call of Frances, he tonishment as Neslerov showed the swung his heavy drosky in toward the second picture. door of her hotel. A police inspector stood near, and the driver saluted in

"I hate women!" he said to himself. between the two he managed a very "They pay nothing and have things creditable work. I shall cherish this happen to them. I shall get into trou- picture while I live. ble before I lose her." the shops of Paulpoff," said the prince. Frances stepped toward the vehicle,

was, to say the least, discreditable in and the driver's mouth opened. was frightened. I saw him crumple a ky driver. "She must be English or an paper in his hand. I snatched it from American. If she was a Russian, she him. It was a message addressed to would be a princess."

Frances had had ample experience with his class in all parts of Russia. She calmly stepped into the drosky and handed him a silver coin. "I want to go to the iron shops of the

Paulpoff's, on the South road," she said. "Paulpoff-Michael Paulpoff and his skillfully repulsed him. That this could that day on the forest road. When son Vladimir. Do you know them?" "Yes, I know them. But do youknow-what has happened?"

"No. Has any one been ill?" "No; but"-The police inspector came up.

"Any trouble here?" he asked sharp-"Trouble? Oh, no!" replied Frances. can make the life of the Paulpoffs

questions." "Where is it you wish to go?" "To the ironworkers'-Paulpoff." A warning look that meant volumes to the initiated shot from the inspector

"I was just asking the driver some pleasant there if you wish."

vehicle rolled clumsily over the road. "You said something had happened," said Frances. "Is any one sick at the Paulpoffs?"

"No; it wasn't that," answered the driver. "But the rain yesterday broke calm. up the read. I did not think you would wish to come."

"Nonsense! There must be a safe vay to get there." In truth the way was as safe and

gated and discovered that this was the comfortable as it had ever been, but headquarters of a circle of nihilists. the warning look of the inspector had He arrested them all, but many esprevented the driver from imparting caped." the knowledge he had of the Paulpoffs. "Let the police tell their own talesthey are always true then-according them.

to police standards," muttered the driv-

It was a long drive to the forge, and when the drosky drew near, having slerov, "and cannot understand how & passed through the wild and almost Frances was struck with an air of to be an assassin. This same spirit mystery that seemed to have suddenly permeates our best society. It comes rect." enveloped the place. There was no sound of the tremen-

dous blows of Vladimir that sent the was sent to Siberia. I had no pity for ring of steel far into the forest. No him, because he was rich, educated and smoke came from the chimneys. Old had no reason to complain. But the Mamma Paulpoff had been wont to run | Paulpoffs-now that I know you are to her door to see every arrival, but she | interested in them-I will protect them was not to be seen. The wolfhound that had been Vladi-

"I thank you," said Frances sadly. mir's net sat whining upon the porch Neslerov slipped a coin into the hand, what did you answer?'

and was evidently weak with hunger. of the drosky driver, and he immedi-"Old Boris!" cried Frances, leaping ately had cause to go to his horses, which were standing peacefully enough from the drosky. "Where is your handwhere he left them.

"I wish to speak one word before we leave here," said the prince, taking the ingly. He seemed to feel that he had hand of Frances, which she, in her surprise, permitted him to hold a moment. "I love you. I have loved you ever since the day I saw you first. We have beautiful women in Russia, but none like you. I am rich, powerful and She had opened the door on Prince am not offering you an empty name Nicholas Nesierov, who stood there, Will you be my wife, my princess?" about to depart, evidently, with a paint-

"Prince Neslerov," said Frances gently, but still in a tone of reproof, "you cannot mean, I am sure, to take advantage of my situation, alone and at four mercy. You are a gentleman. Please leave such words for a more fitting occasion"

"All occasions are the same to a man who loves as I do," answered Neslerov. 'I asked your father. He treated the matter as of no concern. To me it is my life. Make me happy, the world possible! Papa Paulpoff and Mamma is yours. Refuse me, you plunge me Paulpoff might die, they were so old, into deep despair. I do not care to live but Vladimir! Impossible! So young and powerful! Nothing but the weapon without you."

of an enemy could kill him in this "What nonsense!" said Frances. "Everybody has sooner or later to live without a loved one. My father-I-my The Paulpoffs are not really dead. We speak of a man who is caught in crime ber. He has been true to her memory, and sent off-exiled-as dead. He is but he has lived."

dead to his friends and to the world. "Ah, but that is not the same thing at all. Had I possessed you for a time and lost you at the command of death. package of books forgotten in the then I could live, happy in the blessed hands of the drosky driver. Her nails memory. But to love you and lose you to another! Ah, I would kill him!" bit into the tender tlesh of her clinched hands. Her eyes studied the face

"You are mad. Such words do not inspire love in the heart of an American girl. Fools kill their rivals, but it is a poor revenge. I do not love you, "Impossible! He was so simple and prince, and so cannot marry you. Let that end the matter. I must now re-"Conspiracy against his imperial turn to Moscow."

"You shall not go till you are mine!" cried Neslerov, driven to madness by ber coldness. He sprang forward and slammed the door, shutting them alone Siberia! And where are his parents?" In the unoccupied house. He stepped "One in a family taken red handed toward her. His breath came hot upon condemns all. The old people are also her cheeks. His arms were outstretched to seize her. There was a look of mad passion in his eyes. She knew no help was near or possi-

studied Russian customs and Russian justice and shuddered as she realized ble. The drosky driver was a Russian the horrible torture in store for these and would not fight the prince. She might scream, but her voice could not reach within two miles of the nearest house. The threatening lips, the touch ways spoken in terms of loyalty and of which would be pollution, were near her own. With a quick movement she slipped her hand into her pocket. "Stand back, you insulter!" she said,

with a cold, steely voice. The shining barrel of a revolver was thrust into his face. It was not a large weapon and was ornamented with silver, but it was large enough to do execution at short range, and it was almost in Neslerov's very mouth. He

staggered back, taken by surprise. "You she devil!" he cried. arrest. I remembered what you said to With an unward motion he made as if to knock the revolver from her hand. could for the poor fellow, at first doubt-She bent the barrel downward. The contact with his hand exploded one cartridge. The flash blinded him. There was a red mark on his forehead could perform for him. He asked me where the bullet grazed the skull. Half to send him this picture, and I have ar- stunned and cursing, he fell back. ranged with the governor of Perm to Opening the door, Frances walked

The drosky driver was waiting. He had heard the shot. "Do you see this?" she demanded, pointing the revolver at his head.

"Yes," he stammered. "I have just shot Prince Neslerov. If long. you do not take me to the railway stacontinued Neslerov. "There is another tion at Perm and get me there before fency there is much use talking to have arranged to purchase it for a good four bullets into your head."

price, and he shall not lose the money "Get in," he mumbled. Then to him-I promised him. It was a beginning to self he said: "These American women certain steps I had thought of to assist are devils! They are better fighters than the Cossacks!"

CHAPTER V.

THE SUDDEN INTERRUPTION OF A JOURNEY. "Yes, and the remarkable part of it is it took him but a short time. I describto feel anxious. He knew a day." ed you, and he remembered you, and just how long it took to go to Perm and return. Fran-"My picture!" murmured the girl again, looking at the sweet yet strong to get to the Obi.

Where can she be?" he asked himplaced upon the canvas, "And all from self. "She must stop this racing all ter of Vladimir's acrest. over the world alone. Something will surely zappen to her one of these fine tion," said Neslerov. "Your face is so days. I'll stop it."

that I could describe each line, each the resolve. Frances arrived while he was making "Where have you been?" asked Gor-

He had made frequent attempts to don. "To Perm." make love to her, but she had always

"To Perm! But you have been away three days longer than was necessary. be true-that this man whose life was I do not like this way you have of going off by yourself."

"I fancy I can take care of myself. I've been in Perm the three days.' "With the blacksmith and his peoare powerful in Russia. A large part

"No. The blacksmith and his people! of Siberia is under your control. You Vladimir has been sent to Siberia.

"Vladimir Paulpoff, Mamma Paulpoff and Papa Paulpoff are now on their way to Tomsk." "The devil!"

"Yes, the devil! That is just the in-dividual who did it." "What is his other name?

"Prince Neslerov." "What! Neslerov sent Paulpoff to-Come, tell me what you mean. "A man like Neslerov can do any-

thing he likes in Russia except marry

an American girl. Tell me just what

conversation you had with the prince a "A few days ago! Oh, two weeks

"I don't know when it was. But he asked you for my hand, did he not?" "Yes."

"You never told me." Gordon laughed. "I haven't told you the names of half the men who have asked me that."

"But in Russia we should know, because there are tricks. Now, what was "No, not much; said he was rich and insettled region between it and Perm, and contented with his lot should prove powerful and wanted you as an ornamental wife or something to that er-

> "He told me the same thing." "Told you! Where?" "In Paulpoff's house." Gordon panted and sat down.

"I wish you would tell the whole story, he said. "I wish you would answer my quesof books. tions first. What happened when Ne slerov was here? What did he say and

"He didn't say very much-the usual said the governor, with a grim smile. thing. Said he loved you and was rich 'Were I, I would begin an open inves and powerful and could give you a figation at once. But, you understand, good station in Russian society and the the accuser was a prince and the gov world."

"And you said what?" "Why, I said you wouldn't marry the in the thing. It is a delicate matter best man on earth unless you loved for me to reopen. But I promise you him. I said if you would marry the this: I will guardedly look into the man I wanted you to you would long thing, and if I see any chance for doubt ago have been the wife of Jack Denton,

"Never mind Mr. Denton. We were speaking of Neslerov.'

"Yes-but the deuce! You pick your old dad up so short! I am telling you what I said. Don't you want to hear?" four excellency is working to know the "Yes," replied Frances, laughing and kissing him. "Dear old dad, what did

you say?" "I said I liked Jack Denton better than any other man on earth and that you hated him worst. But I wanted entered the train was Neslerov. The you to marry him because he was good mark made by Frances' builet was and noble and a rising man, a brave man and altogether a"-

"Hero and angel in one. What did the prince say to that?" wrath from Gordon would come. But "He only repeated what he had said before."

"Then what?" "I said-why-now, don't get angry mother died many years ago. He loved at your old dad-I said you were a self willed creature and acted on your own

whims.

"That is nothing to get angry about have sent the Paulpoffs to their doom." "For goodness sake, how?" "It was natural that"-

"It wasn't natural at all. What did Vladimir Paulpoff to plot against the ezar?"

"Heavens! Are you so blind? Paulpoffs are as innocent of this charge me as well. Day after day they passed as you or I. It was against Vladimir the plot was laid." "I begin to catch your meaning.

was it-Neslerov?" "It is impossible to say whether he where I had been buying books for Vladimir. I did not, of course, suspect that he had been talking with you about marrying me. Unwittingly I teld him they were for Vladimir and asked him also to take an interest in

"I also told him of a blacksmith in together and has imagined Vladimir.

"I and my fears that something was said about Vladimir. It was so clearly a plot that I knew the jealousy of Neslerov had been aroused. When I learned what had been done, I waited two days at Perm to see Governor Guslay, but he was away, and I could not see him. It was the superintendent of police who gave me the little information I got. It seems that an inspector discovered—so they say—that nihilists looking at the great expanse of tundra, were meeting in the forge. Letters the new villages springing up, the old wes claimed and Vladimir was found guilty. I am sure Vladimir would have sent to us if he could."

"I don't want to get mixed up in any nihilist scrape."

"But you will help Vladimir, will you "What can I do?"

"You can at least stop at Perm and "I will do that, certainly; but I don't

he overtakes us, I will empty the other Guslav. He is a stern old soldier and has no sympathy for lovers or plot train? Where is my father?"

"But he is just and honorable." "Yes, I am sure of that."

gether and see him." say, but we are about ready to start me-for I had just come in with a cup

"That will do." ces had often taken long journeys by and four days more saw them at Perm. tovernor. But I am governor, and if herself, but she was now three days The governor was at home and receive fou will obey me I promise that you overdue, and the engineer was eager ed Mr. Gordon, the name being an will reach Tomsk in safety." open sesame anywhere in Russia. Mr. Frances leaned back weakly and Gordon plunged at once into the mat- stared.

> "That he was arrested, if the circumstances were suspicious, I grant, was passed and looked at the car in wonder proper enough," said Mr. Gordon, "But | she shuddered, was there a fair trial? Pardon me if "Unfortunately, your father was in a I speak plainly. Your institutions of forward car. It was with his consent justice here are quite different from I came to you with coffee. Fear nothcurs at home. I have known where ing. however, for, though we are in a men were hustled off to Siberia with wild region, I am governor and will no semblance of a trial."

"But they were guilty," said the gov. shall come to you-if you obey me." ernor, with a smile. "Yes; I believe in all the instances that came under my observation they

"It was the same in this case. The Paulpoffs had been using their isolated position for base ends. A circle of the brotherhood of nibilists congregated there. Letters were found upon them. These letters were all signed by Vladi-

mir Paulpoff." "Did he admit anything?" "They never do. It is only when a man is captured in the very act of assassination, and he knows he cannot escape the death penalty, that he admits his crime and glories in it. The

course." "Poor Vladimir! He was as innocent as I am!" broke in Frances. "Impossible. The letters were proof

Paulpoffs denied everything, of

"Are the letters here?" "No: unfortunately, they were carted away by one of the men who es-"Then you did not see the letters?"

nough.

"No: I regret that I did not." "What was said concerning them?" "Their import was given by Inspectir Jansky and Prince Neslerov, who ound them. Their testimony so pleasat the minister of justice that Jansky ms been promoted to be superintendent of the police at Tomsk. You seem o think there is some doubt of the fullt of these people," said the governer, turning to Mr. Gordon.

"For my part I am quite sure they tre innocent. My daughter has been interested in them since the railway an through Perm. It is not like them to plot. They are too simple andgnorant." "But Vladimir is not. He is shrewd

and intelligent. He has been a reader "Yes; my daughter furnishes them." "I am not at all doubtful myself,"

ernor of Tomsk, and the minister of justice has set the seal of his approval

for your sake I will do what I can to selp the Paulpoffs.' "Thank you. That is all we can ask," said Mr. Gordon. "We may see them at Tomsk. I may say to them that

"You may." The interview ended, and Mr. Gordon and Frances continued their journey. The first person they saw when they still there, but he had not, to all appearances, been seriously injured. He looked curiously at the two travelers. is if wondering when the outbreak of

seld out his hand. "How do you do, your excellency?" ie said. "We are going to Tomsk together, it seems."

hat gentleman walked up to him and

Neslerov was almost stunned, but be book the hand. Was it possible that I do. But I fear that between us we Frances had not told her father of the icene in Paulpoff's cottage?

It was so, and Frances had her own reasons. She loved the liberty she had for years been permitted to enjoy. But say-what have you done-to cause the knew that if dangers and narrow escapes came to her father's ears her therty would soon come to an end.

It was a long journey, and a weary through the same scenes, crossed rivers on bridges that had been built by Jack Denton, Frances' old playmate, and the strong structures perhaps caused her to think of the hardworking did or not, but I suspect him. You re. Foung man who built them and was member the day he was here. I met now planning a very large and excelhim as I came home from the bazaars, lent bridge across the Obi. But whatever was in Frances' mind dld not find expression through her lips, for her father and Neslerov smoked and chatted and played cards with two officers gomg to garrisons on the border.

Frances said nothing more about the prince, for in the place to which they were going he was supreme, and to involve her father with him in a quarrel He has put that and your independence would have been to invite a disaster similar to that which had overtaken the Paulpoffs.

Day after day Frances leaned her head against the glass window and watched the flitting scenes. At last they reached the Irtish and crossed the border into that province, which was almost as much Neslerov's own as though be were a king.

There were but few passengers by that time, for the road had not been finished, and the train must stop at the Obl. Frances, half dreaming, lay back, were found on them which implicated buts that were now deserted and the Vladimir. There was a trial, so !! waste of railway supplies along the track.

The prince had asked her father to go into another car and smoke. This left her alone, and she closed her eyes and

dozed. She woke up with a start. A hand was on her shoulder. She saw Nesle-For bending over her. A smile of tri-"You can at least stop at Perm and see the governor. It will not delay us she glanced out of the window. The

rest of the train had gone on. "What has happened?" she cried, leaping to her feet. "Where is the "Speeding toward the Obi, my dear,"

said Neslerov. "Unfortunately, at this point the couplings between this car "Then come. We will go to Perm to and the next were broken, and the offi-"Well, I suppose I must do as you ters of the train, not missing you or R. GORDON was beginning for the Obi. We can stop at Perm for of coffee for you-left us and went on. various tribes of the remarkable col-The preparations were hastily made, ection of savages over whom I am

> "My father gone!" she cried, and as she looked out at the savage faces that

protect you. I love you, and no harm

TO BE CONTINUED.

A Story of Bishop Pottes. Bishop Potter in the course of southern ramble found himself in city where his personal appearance much less generally known than it is n his own New York. Being for the time off duty, as it were, he did no think it necessary to appear at the hotel breakfast table in the regulation Episcopai garb, and the Afro-American waiter, accustomed to seeing many o his military titled patrons wearing black frock coats and ties, addressed this newcomer as "colonel."

"I'm not a colonel," said the bishop. "I beg pardon, gin'ral, I"-"I'm not a general either. I'm noth

ing but a plain bishop. "Da's right, suh-bishop, suh. 1 jes knowed you was top de heap some wheres, bishop. You take tea, coffee or milk sub?"-New York Times.

Maxim Gorki, the celebrated Rus-

sian povelist, was for years little better than a tramp, says American Tit-Bits. At fifteen he ran away from home, and up to the age of twenty-five he scarcely had sufficient food to keep him alive. He worked alternately as a day laborer, a sawyer, a cook and a lighterman. Then he hourd that free instruction could be obtained at Kazan, and, having no money to pay for his journey, he walked there, a distance of over 600 miles. He there worked for a salary of 6 shillings a month, studying hard during the evenings. Then he became a clerk in a lawyer's office, where his literary talent was discovered, and he eventually made his mark.

Abram S. Hewitt has taken a five-year

Bear Admiral Burges Watson, of the British Navy, has just died on board the battle-lip Ramillies.

THE CALIFORNIA DUNKARDS Sect That Strives to Live According

to the Teachings of the New Testament. The Dunkards of southern California live in one of the prettiest va levs in that part of the state at the foot of the San Gabriel spur of the Sierra Madres-30 miles east from Los Angeles. They get their livelihood from little fruit orchards and

principally from olive and lemon

groves, says a Los Angeles report. The central Dunkard town is Lordsburg, a village of 1,500 people. with trim but very plain houses, neatly kept streets flanked by shade trees, a large college building and a church, about which the whole colony rotates. One can scarcely imagine a more decorous, solemn community than Lordsburg.

The whole population arises at dawn, is industriously busy all day long, never speaking on any subject but those concerning the colony thrift, the manifestation of the divine will, the extension of the sect's influence and the interpretation of Scriptural passages. At sunset there are brief devotional services in every Dunkard home, and when the meal is over, each household gathers about its head for Bible reading and religious contemplation. Seldom is a light seen in a home in Lordsburg after nine o'clock at night

THE SUN SELDOM ON TIME

Only Four Days in the Year When Old Sol Isn't Too Early or Too Late in Arriving.

The sun does not keep good time. He is almost always too fast or too slow. Once about the middle of April he is just on time, then not again before the middle of June. At the beginning of September he joins the clock a third time, and lastly once more late in December save Prof. S. C. Schmucker, in Ladies' Home Journal. Now it would seem as if he were startled at the way he had neglected us. In February he fell back until he was 15 minutes late. By the beginning of March he had made up five minutes of his loss. and before the month is over he will have caught up to within five minutes of the schedule. Meanwhile the days have been growing longer very rapidly. We begin March with our nights longer than our days. We end it with our days longer than our nights. In the one month we have added to the length of our day an hour and 20 minutes, a bigger gain than any other month can show.

BARRED FROM UNIVERSITIES.

Germany Willing as an Experiment However, to Admit Girls to Attend Gymnasiums.

During the discussion of the educas tional estimates in the lower house of the diet the other day, the minister of public instruction, Dr. Studt, announced that the government was willing, as an experiment, to permit girls to attend the existing gymnasiums and also to establish a girls' gymnasim, but declined all responsibility for the outcome of the experiment. garding the attendance of girls at the universities, the minister said the government failed to see that there was ny universal need of academic studie for girls. Therefore it adhered to its decision that they should only be admitted to universities as guests. The government, however, was of the opinon that, in order to maintain the idealistic position of German men in the home, the instruction of girls in the high schools should accord more close-

ly with the requirements of the present In Government Service. Col. John Mosby, the leader of one of the most important confederate cavalry commands during the civil war, is in government service in Colo-

rado, charged with preventing the

private inclosure of public lands. St. Joseph (Mo.) negroes are so enperstitious that the street railway company there has found it necessary, to take off car No. 13 from one of its lines.

The Shortest Sermon. The shortest sermon on record was preached at Atlantic. Mich., on a recent Sunday. The pastor had been requested to make his discourse brief on account of the hot weather, so he announced as his text Luke xvi, 24, "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame." The sermon was as follows: "Three persons - Abraham, Dives, Lazarus. It was hot where Dives was. He wanted to get

out. So do we. Let us pray." Where He Was Going. The Rev. Dr. Swallow tells a story about George Alfred Townsend, who writes over the nom de plume of Gath. "What does that name mean?" Dr. Swallow was asked by a young lady of

his parish. "Why, the letters are the author's initials," answered the clergyman-"G.

A. Townsend." "But what does the H stand for?" the other persisted. "That's where he is going when he

dies," came from the doctor. The questioner was visibly impressed.

"Is he such a very bad man?" she asked, almost in a whisper "Certainly not," replied Dr. Swallow, "The H stands for beaven."-New York

Got Ahead of Her. "Why. Paula, you look so unhappy, and only four weeks married!" "Oh, Emma, I've been treated shame-

fuly. I had been begging my husband to buy me a new hat, but he refused, and just as I was going to faint in order to bring him to terms, what do you think? he fainted!"- Pliegende Blaetter. Rear Admiral Philip H. Cooper, U. S.N., and Mrs. Cooper will reside in Newport or the next three years. They have clos-

d their house in Morristown, N. J.

protest against the religious congregations